

## Sunday Service ~ November 16, 2025

### Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church

#### Welcome & Prayer

In Psalm 100: 5 we read *"For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."* Let's start with a time of prayer.

*Heavenly Father, we come before You today because you are the one true God, both the God who loves us, and the God who saves us. We confess that time and again we are guilty of letting you down, and for this we are sorry. We thank-you for the completed work of salvation through the death and resurrection of your son Jesus. We pray for your presence this morning and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit as we remove distractions, focus on your word, and grow in our faith. We pray all this in Jesus' name, Amen.*

#### Song – Ancient of Days [\(1\) Ancient Of Days - Lyric Video - YouTube](#)

Blessing and honour, glory and power  
Be unto the Ancient of Days  
From every nation, all of creation  
Bow before the Ancient of Days

Every tongue in heaven and earth shall declare Your glory  
Every knee shall bow at Your throne in worship  
You will be exalted, oh God  
And Your kingdom shall not pass away  
Oh, Ancient of Days

Your kingdom shall reign over all the earth  
Sing unto the Ancient of Days  
For none can compare to Your matchless worth  
Sing unto the Ancient of Days

#### Bible Reading – Romans 5:1-11 (NIV)

*"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. 6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! 10 For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! 11 Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation."*

#### Announcements

**Focus for Month: Service.** *"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."* (1 Peter 4:10) God has entrusted each of us with unique gifts, not for ourselves, but to

serve others. When we use what He has given us to bless those around us, we become faithful stewards of His grace. Let us serve joyfully and generously, knowing that in giving to others, we honour the One who gave us everything.

**New City Catechism:** New City Catechism – Question 48 Q: What is prayer? A: Prayer is pouring out our hearts to God in words or thoughts, offering our requests to him, confessing our sins, giving thanks, and praising him for who he is. **Bible Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

**Funds for fitout.** If you indicated that you would like to help finance the proposed fit out, then please note that our Church bank account is (BSB 062 829, A/c 1019 4850). Please mark “Building Project in the description) If anyone else would like to make a contribution toward the rest of the fit out (some \$38,000) that would be greatly appreciated!

**Help Needed.** Many hands make light work. And many hands will get the work done to ready the Church and new hall for Churches services in late December. We understand that December is very busy for everyone but if you had some time on Saturdays (or even midweek) to help with painting, preparing or moving, then will be plenty of opportunities for service for all! More details a bit closer to the time.

**Youth and Young Adults Worker.** We are very excited to announce that Jannah Pittman is going to be our new young adults and youth worker. Final details are yet to be worked out but we are hoping that Jannah will start work in late January. We are extremely thankful to those who applied for the job and missed out – each applicant was of a very high standard.

**Save the date! Church Camp** 6-8<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Tahlee. Rego open soon.

**Christmas Baubles Making for Women.** Want to make some Christmas decorations, while having a great time, hearing the good news of Jesus and enjoying a space to invite your non -Christians friends? Well, this is the event you are looking for. NEXT Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2-4pm at the Charlestown Multi-Purpose Centre. RSVP via Facebook or text Jemma, Linda or Jo.

**Next AM Sermon Series: Romans 1-8 ~ God’s Unstoppable Gospel**

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23.11	<b>Breaking free from sins chains</b> – Romans 6:1-25
30.11	<b>How can I really change?</b> Romans 7:1-25
14.12	<b>Life in the Spirit!</b> Romans 8:1-17

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## Pastoral Prayer

**Pray for Kyrgyzstan** (Population ~ 6.8 million, Christians ~ 263,000) Pray that the Lord would raise up faithful gospel-preachers and church planters in Kyrgyzstan, who are strong in the doctrines of grace and faithful in proclamation. Pray that local believers—especially those from Muslim-backgrounds—would be disciplined deeply in Christ, grow in their knowledge of Scripture, and become effective witnesses. Pray for open hearts among the Kyrgyz people: that cultural and religious barriers would be broken, and many would come to trust Christ alone for salvation.

**Pray for Vanuatu Mission Team.** Praise God that we have a mission team of 8 going to Vanuatu this coming January (Claire, Mia, Remy, Cheryl, Archie, Noah, James and Stephen). Pray for all the preparations that we will be able to partner with local Churches to encourage them spiritual, relationally and physically. Pray that the locals will be well organised so that all our plans would come into fruition.

**Pray for our political leaders.** Pray that leaders would prioritize policies that reflect truth, righteousness, and the common good. Pray that Australia’s leaders would uphold the freedom of the church to worship and proclaim the gospel openly. Pray that leaders would recognize God as the ultimate authority and govern under His law

**Pray for Jannah our new young adults/youth worker.** Pray that Jannah would have deep understanding of Scripture and discernment in guiding young adults and youth. Pray for the Holy Spirit to give her insight into each individual’s spiritual needs, helping her disciple them in truth and grace. Pray that she would model Christlike character and integrity, inspiring young people to follow Jesus.

## Bible Reading – Romans 5:12-21 (NIV)

12 “Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned— 13 To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone’s account where there is no law. 14 Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come. 15 But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! 16 Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man’s sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. 17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! 18 Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. 19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. 20 The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, 21 so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

## Song – Hear Our Prayer [Hear Our Prayer \(Lyric Video\) // Emu Music - YouTube](#)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Hear our prayer, God above<br>As we come to you and seek your patient love<br>Hear our hearts, hear our minds<br>Hear the echoes of the words we cannot find    | 3. Hear our prayer, faithful one<br>Shape our yearnings to the gospel of your Son<br>Free our hearts, free our minds<br>From the war that sin will wage till you arrive |
| 2. Be our hope, be our guide<br>In our wanderings of weakness break our pride<br>Not for ease shall we pray<br>But for strength that we may walk with you this day | 4. Be our joy, be our stay<br>Give us eyes to see you answer prayer this day<br>Hear us praise all you’ve done<br>We rejoice as we receive the victory won              |

### Chorus

So we pray in faith, your will be done  
As we long to see your kingdom come  
We ask with one voice  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord

## Sermon – What does God think of me? (Stephen)

Sermon link: <https://www.charlestownpresbyterian.org.au/morningsermons/romans-5-what-does-god-think-of-us/>

A young man nervously opened the reference letter his old boss had written for him. He half-expected criticism — words like “inconsistent,” “unreliable,” or “needs improvement.” But when he read it, the letter said: “Dependable. Kind. Always puts others first. A pleasure to work with.” He said later, “I’d never realised my boss thought that highly of me. I walked into that interview standing so much taller.”

It’s one thing knowing what others think about us but deep, deep down I think many of us wonder what does God think of us. A while back in a bible study someone said something that deeply resonated with many of us. They said “I know that God loves me, he wouldn’t have sent Jesus to die on the cross for me, if he didn’t. But I wonder if he likes me. I know exactly what I am like. Does he look down on me, hugely disappointed in who I am?”

I think a close study of Romans 5 will help us answer that question for ourselves and for our fellow Christians. Paul has spent the first four chapters showing us **why we were once God's enemies** but how through the righteousness of Jesus Christ we have now become his friends. But what is God's relationship with us now? And how should we respond to all that He has done and is doing in our lives?

Slide 2

*"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God."* **Therefore.** As a result of all that God has done for us in the past that now means that we have peace with God.

### 1. God made peace with us (verses 1-2)

Now peace is a universal desire. I think almost all of us would like peace on earth – peace between countries, peace within our nation, peace in our homes. But Paul is telling us that what Jesus has done for us has given us **peace with God**. Not the peace **of** God, that might be true as well but that is not what Paul is saying here. But an objective peace with God. I am no longer his enemy. He is no longer angry with me. The sin that was in my heart and in my life that separated me from God has been removed & totally dealt with.

Which means that peace has granted me **access into God's grace**. By faith I no longer live in the outhouse but in the temple, actually in God's palace. The Son of God, Jesus has now personally ushered in his brothers and sisters of faith to enjoy a personal standing, a personal relationship with God Himself. We have 24/7 access to the creator of the universe.

And that brings with it a hope. Not a wish that something good might happen to me, but a certainty that we will one day be caught up in the glory of God. That not only can I get a glimpse of God's glory now but God's glory will do its work in my life making me more and more like Jesus so on the last day I will be able to stand in the fullness of God's glory.

Slide 3

So, what does God think of the Christian? He has invited us to live in his presence. He has allowed us to stand before him through his grace and he places within us a hope that makes us not just look back at what God has done for us in the past and is doing for us right now but filling us with a vision of God's glory as to what he will do in us in the future.

So, when guilt or fear whispers, "God must be angry with you," remember: the peace treaty is signed in Christ's blood. You don't have to *make* peace — you already *have* peace. You're no longer an enemy; your family. And the trajectory of the relationship you have with God is heading for glory. One day you will experience & share in God's great glory. Now peace, grace, joy, hope & glory sound idyllic but the tone changes with the mention of suffering, for

Slide 4

### 2. God is (also) shaping us through our sufferings (verses 3-5)

*3 "Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."*

Peace with God doesn't automatically translate to peace with the world. Actually, if the world and most of the humans in it are hostile to God, then the Christian should not just expect peace, joy, grace and glory but also suffering. But Paul is telling us that we don't rejoice because of our suffering but we are able to rejoice **"in our suffering."** Trust me there no joy in the actual troubles. But the Christian who serves a sovereign God and a heavenly father knows that God is powerful enough to bring us real benefit through any suffering.

Because suffering produces a chain reaction in the believer. Suffering leads to perseverance. It makes us focus on what is really important in life. It helps us to be single-minded because it shows us what is truly important and what isn't really that important and it creates in us a desire to not let go of the most important thing in life, our relationship with Jesus. And that perseverance develops character within us.

Comment [ST1]:

Character is something that is forged in the ups and down of life. It takes the raw materials of what we are like as an individual and puts it under the blowtorch so to speak. Shaping it, refining it, testing it, to reveal what we are truly like. And that character leads us back to hope. A stronger assurance and confidence that God can use even the toughest trials to bring about his desired outcomes in his people That we become more and more like Jesus.

In the words of Tim Keller, *"Suffering drives us to the one place where we find real hope, real confidence and certainty, God"* Himself. Because in the midst of those tough times we discover that God has poured his love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. There is an inner experience, an inner conviction, that throughout the ups and down of life, God never lets you go. The Holy Spirit has taken the powerlessness of our human condition in the midst of overwhelming difficulty and suffering and filled it with the power of God Himself.

Which is why we can rejoice in even the tough times. So, if you were to ask Abraham what helped him the most to understand God's faithfulness to him, he would say when he was directed to sacrifice his one and only son on Mt Moriah. And Jacob would say when he spent the night wrestling with God. Moses would tell you of his fight with Pharaoh, David will recount his songs that came to him at night in his powerlessness. Peter of his denial, John about his time on Patmos and Jesus would tell us about his dying on the cross.

So, the next time suffering comes your way and you are tempted to say to God, "Why me" or "What on earth are you doing allowing this tragedy to come to me?" Remember that suffering doesn't cancel God's love, it confirms his craftsmanship in your life. It doesn't mean he is angry with you but that he wants to do something within you.

After the devastating **Black Summer bushfires of 2019–2020**, a Christian blacksmith from rural Victoria was interviewed on how he coped with losing his workshop, his tools, and nearly his home. He said something remarkable: "When the fire came through, everything I'd built was tested by heat. What survived surprised me. The forge was damaged, but the iron inside—still usable. The fire showed what could endure."

Later, when he rebuilt, he hung a plaque over his new forge that read: *"Refined by fire, remade by grace."* He said, *"In my trade, heat isn't the enemy—it's the tool. Fire shapes iron into strength. And now I see God is doing the same with me. He's the Master Blacksmith. The fire didn't destroy me; it revealed His workmanship"* within me. Thirdly...

### 3. God proves his love for us (verses 6-11)

6 "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

So, when the sufferings come, there is this subjective leading within our hearts pointing us to the work of God's Holy Spirit deep within us but there is also an objective truth that we can fill our hearts and our

minds with as well. How God's love is shown us definitively at the cross. And that subjective experience and our objective experience work together to give us the assurance that we need. That God truly loves us.

For you do you notice when God sent Christ to die? When we were powerless, ungodly, sinners, his enemies. As someone has pointed out, if the degree of love is measured by the worthiness of the recipient, then this would show how much God must love us, if he would do all of that for those who are full of sin and have rejected their creator.

What's more love is not just measured by the nature of the recipient but also by the cost of the gift to the giver. And the cost of this gift of grace to the sinners of this world is out of this world. Because it involves part of the Trinity dying on a Roman cross on behalf of those who had previously rejected him. What love is this? That would send God's his own son Jesus to die for you and me. As the song goes, *"Amazing love oh what sacrifice. The Son of God given for me My debt he pays, and my death he dies. That I might live, that I might live."*

Slide 9

And that death occurs at just the right time. The right time for us because we were lost in our sins and the right time for God's salvation to then go to the end of the earth. But let me point out something that surprised me about these well know words. For Paul doesn't says but God demonstrates **Christ's love** for us but instead *"But God demonstrates **his own love** for us in this, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* Christ's action, is God's action.

Slide 10

In August 1966, during the Vietnam War, 108 Australian soldiers from D Company faced nearly 2,000 enemy troops in the pouring rain at Long Tan. Private Geoffrey Kendall ran through gunfire again and again, carrying ammunition to the front line. Each trip could have been his last — but he went anyway. His mates said later, *"He didn't think of himself — he thought of us."* Now that's what love looks like under fire.

Slide 11

And that's what the cross is: love under fire. Jesus ran into the line of death for us — not when we were His friends, but when we were His enemies. He was even willing to die and be separated from his father God, because of his love for you and me. And Christ's love is also God's love. So, when your conscience says to you "How on earth could God love someone like you? You have let him down again and again. You never seem to learn your lessons. And this time you have well and truly blown it." There before us we have objective proof of not just Christ's love for us but God's ongoing love for us. *God demonstrates **his own love** for us in this, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

Slide 12

*9" Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! 10 For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! 11 Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation."*

You see if God didn't give up on you when you were at war with him, it is highly unlikely He will give up on you now that we are his friends. And if God was willing to save us when his son was dead, how much more likely will he ensure that your salvation is eternally secure now that Jesus has been resurrected back to eternal life? God has gone to extraordinary lengths to turn his enemies into his friends, surely, surely, he will expend the same amount of energy to keep us as his friends. And that is shown lastly in how

Slide 13

#### 4. God pours his grace on us (verses 12-21)

And so, Paul goes on a bit of a tangent to help us understand why we can be assured of God's continuing love for us; despite our rebellion, despite our sin, despite our weak nature. And to do that he wants to

draw attention to the two greatest leaders of the human race, Adam and Jesus. And he does that because he wants to take us on a journey that will deliver us at verses 20 and 21.

He is going to use Adam and Jesus to help us understand that *“where sin increased, grace increased all the more, 21 so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* God has poured his grace on us like a massive waterfall. And it will come and keep on coming no matter what our response to that grace is. That’s where we are going, so let’s think about how Paul gets there.

Slide 14

A number of years ago, the Australian cricket team were looking for a new captain. Mark Taylor was retiring. He had been a very successful leader and Australia was currently the best cricket team in the world. But the time had come for a new captain to be appointed and pretty quickly it seemed that there were two real contenders. Shane Warne, the best spin bowler in the world and Steve Waugh, one of the most experienced batsmen in the world. Two fine cricketers, but two different characters - one flamboyant, a risk taker, controversial. The other more conservative, more a team player, more solid.

Now I remember back then that A Current Affair asked its viewers to ring in and vote for the captain of their choice. And to my amazement my wife Kaylene actually picked up the phone. She had never voted in this sort of thing before and I think she has never done so since. But she was passionate that one would be an absolute disaster and the other was a real winner. So, she did something about it, she picked up the phone. And when Steve Waugh was chosen and then became even more successful than Mark Taylor, she would always tell me that it was her vote that made all the difference.

Now when Paul gets to the second part of Romans 5, he presents us with a similar choice. For he wants to outline for us two leaders of their teams, two captains for the position of the human race & those two possible captains are Adam and Jesus. So, to help us make our decision, he gives us the form guide so to speak, starting with Adam.

Slide 15

*12 “Therefore, just as sin entered the world through **one man**, (Adam), and death through sin, and in this way, death came to all people, because all sinned— 13 To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone’s account where there is no law. 14 Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come.”*

Slide 16

One possible captain is Adam. He’s dressed in All black, sorry the NZers that are out there. Adam brings sin into the world by disobeying God’s direct word to him and eating of the fruit of the tree in the Garden of Eden. And the moment he sins; death enters the world. His sin is like a virus that spreads from him to all those who are on his team. Which means whoever follows Adam wears with him the same black jersey marked by guilt, shame & death.

Now how is that fair? How can Adam’s sin affect all men? How can what he did thousands of years ago infect me living in a far away country in far, far different circumstances? The individualism of our modern world rebels against such an idea that you and I should be caught up in what Adam did such a long time ago. Well just as the Australian ambassador represents all Australians when he speak to a foreign government and our lawyer speaks for us when he stands up to present our case, so Adam is God’s appointed representative for all mankind. He is not just the first human but he also is the captain of team humanity.

Because God created him for that very task. He was perfectly created and designed to act exactly as you and I **would have acted** in the same situation. And you and I can’t say that we would have done a better

job because **our track record in other situations** show that we would have done exactly what Adam had done and disobeyed God's specific instructions. Yes, Adam is our captain by inheritance, but also by imitation & by involvement. And that has been an absolute tragedy for all of us. It's led to sin, guilt, shame & death for all mankind

But God has raised up for us another potential captain for us all, Jesus Christ. And this captain is dressed in the white jersey of grace. And he is the one who can turn the game of life around for people like you and me. Because Adam's sin is no match for Christ's righteousness. His death can be defeated by Jesus' life. And Paul then goes through how great this second captain by walking us through his victory, step by step & it's all by his grace

Slide 17

For firstly Grace outruns sin. V.15 *"For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!"* No matter how much sin sets the pace, God's grace can reach all.

Then grace overrules guilt. V16 *"Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification."* Grace reverses the guilty verdict that comes to all those who are on Adam's team.

Next grace overthrows death. 17 *"For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!"* Just as Jesus rose from the dead, so he shows us that death no longer reigns in us God's grace does!

And God's grace overturns the heavenly verdict. 18 *"Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people."* Lastly Grace outshines the ruin of mankind. 19 *"For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous."*

Slide 18

Which is why grace reigns. For when sin increases, grace increase even more. So, when the final whistle blows and we compare these two captains and their two teams, team Adam collapses, defeated by sin and death but team Jesus lifts the trophy of life, not because we played well but because he played on our behalf. For just as Adam previously represented us as the captain of the sin team, now Jesus winning the victory by his death and resurrection shares the spoils of victory to all those who by faith have trusted in him as Lord and Saviour.

Slide 19

So, what does God think of you? He was the one who made peace with you, he is committed to shaping you, even in your sufferings, who proved his love for you when he sent Jesus to die on the cross in your place and even now, he is pouring his grace upon you as you follow your team captain Jesus throughout all the twists and turns of this earthly life.

But I want to leave you with one last thought. Jesus now looks you in the eye and says I want you to be part of my team. Friend, he says, my team is the winning team. My team is heading for the heavenly championships. My team will be a team of harmony, grace and love and I want you to be with me. And I have died in order to secure your transfer.

Slide 20

So, what does God think of you? He died in order to enable you to be on his team. And he is committed to doing everything you and I need to stay on his team. We just need to remember that. Remember that when you have fallen in sin. Remember that when you are filled with guilt. Remember that when you have



your doubts and even remember that when everything is going well. And use that as all the motivation you need to live lives of righteousness as you follow the king of righteousness, our Lord Jesus Christ.

## Song – God is for us <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iPZnFLhltzQ>

1. We won't fear the battle, we won't fear the night  
We will walk the valley with You by our side  
You will go before us, You will lead the way  
We have found a refuge, only You can save

Chorus

Sing with joy now, our God is for us  
The Father's love is a strong and mighty fortress  
Raise your voice now, no love is greater  
Who can stand against us if our God is for us

2. Even when I stumble, even when I fall  
Even when I turn back, still Your love is sure  
You will not abandon, You will not forsake  
You will cheer me onward with never-ending grace

Chorus

Bridge

Neither height nor depth can separate us  
Hell and death will not defeat us  
He who gave His son to free us  
Holds me in His love

Repeat Bridge

Chorus x2

**Benediction.** *"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*  
(Romans 5:6-8)